

Message Text

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SUBJECT: GENERAL ELECTION - NO. 12A - ELECTION RESULTS
FROM GREENLAND AND THE FAEROE ISLANDS

REF: (A) COPENHAGEN 0067

(B) COPENHAGEN A-51 OF MARCH 8, 1973

SUMMARY: ALL FOUR INCUMBENT MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT FROM DENMARK'S NORTH ATLANTIC DEPENDENCIES, GREENLAND AND THE FAEROE ISLANDS, WERE RE-ELECTED IN THE JANUARY 9 ELECTIONS. IN THE SUBSEQUENT ORGANIZATION OF THE FOLKETING (PARLIAMENT), THREE HAVE GENERALLY ALIGNED THEMSELVES, AS EXPECTED, WITH THE SOCIALIST PARTIES AND ONE WITH THE NON-SOCIALIST SIDE OF THE HOUSE. THE FOUR WILL PLAY IMPORTANT ROLES IN THE PRESENT FOLKETING SESSION, WHICH WILL CONSIDER DEMANDS FOR INCREASED AUTONOMY FROM BOTH GREENLAND AND THE FAEROES. END SUMMARY.

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1. THE FOLKETING ELECTION WAS CONTESTED BY ALL FOUR MAJOR

PARTIES IN THE FAEROE ISLANDS, THE LEFTIST REPUBLICAN PARTY, THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATS, THE (MODERATE LIBERAL) UNIONIST PARTY THE THE (CONSERVATIVE) PEOPLES PARTY. THE RESULT WAS A CONFIRMATION OF THE BASIC STABILITY OF FAEROESE POLITICS, WHIHI SHIFTS OF ONLY A PER CENT OR TWO FROM THE FOLKETING ELECTION RESULTS OF DECEMBER 1973.

PERCENT OF THE TOTAL VOTE CHANGE FROM		
PARTY	JANUARY 1975	DECEMBER 1973
REPUBLICANS	25.7	-1.2
SOCIAL DEMOCRATS	29.7	-0.9
UNIONISTS	23.2	PLUS 2.6
PEOPLES	21.4	-0.5

THE TOTAL VOTE WAS 13,821, GIVING A PARTICIPATION RATE OF 55.6 PER CENT, SLIGHTLY BETTER THAN THE 54.4 PERCENT ONE YEAR AGO.

2. ERLENDUR PATURSSON, THE RADICAL LEFT-WING CHAIRMAN OF THE REPUBLICAN PARTY, WAS RE-ELECTED WITH THE LARGEST PERSONAL VOTE, 2,474, THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC INCUMBENT, JOHAN NIELSEN, OUTDREW HIS PARTY'S CHAIRMAN, FAEROESE PRIME MINISTER ATLI DAM, 2,371 TO 1,008, TO WIN THE REAMINING SEAT.

3. IN GREENLAND, THE TWO NEWLY-ORGANIZED ELECTION ALLIANCES DOMINATED THE FIELD, WITH EACH, AS ANTICIPATED, ELECTING ONE MEMBER OF THE PARLIAMENT. THE LEFTIST, NATIONALIST ALLIANCE RECEIVED 9,379 VOTES AND RE-ELECTED LARS EMIL JOHANSON, GREENLAND'S MAJOR VOTE-GETTER WITH 7,663 PERSONAL VOTES. THE MODERATE ALLIANCE WON THE SECOND SEAT WITH 7,078 VOTES, RE-ELECTING THE INCUMBENT NIKOLAJ ROSING BY A NARROW MARGIN OF 200 PERSONAL VOTES OVER HIS COLLEAGUE KNUD HERTLING. SINCE THIS WAS THE FIRST ELECTION UNDER THE NEW LAW, THE OUTCOME WAS A SIGNIFICANT INDICATION OF THE RELATIVE STRENGTH OF THE TWO ALLIANCES--ONE SOCIALIST, AND STRONGLY SEPARATIST; THE OTHER LIBERAL AND PRO-DANISH. BOTH ARE EXPECTED TO DEVELOP INTO FORMAL GREENLANDIC POLITICAL PARTIES IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

3. PARTY ALIGNMENT IN THE DANISH FOLKETING. WHEN THE FOLKETING CONVENED JANUARY 23, JOHANSEN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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DECLARED HIMSELF ALIGNED WITH THE SOCIALIST PEOPLES PARTY, GIVING THE SPP TEN SEATS. JOHAN NIELSEN, SIMILARLY, REJOINED THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARLIAMENTARY GROUP, WHICH THUS NUMBERS 54. BOTH VOTED WITH THEIR PARTIES IN FAVOR OF THE NO-CONFIDENCE MOTION WHCIH OVERTURNED THE HARTLING GOVERNMENT. ROSING, WHILE NOT OFFICIALLY ALIGNING HIMSELF WITH THE LIBERAL PARLIAMENTARY GROUP, VOTED IN SUPPORT OF THE HARTLING GOVERNMENT. PATURSSON, WHO ALSO REMAINS

OFFICIALLY UNALIGNED, WAS ABSENT; HE NORMALLY VOTES WITH THE SPP WHEN HE DOES VOTE ON NON-FAEROESE ISSUES.

4. THE ROLE PLAYED BY THE NORTH ATLANTIC MEMBERS IN THE FALL OF THE HARTLING GOVERNMENT IS AN AUGURY OF THE IMPORTANT ROLE THEY SEEM DESTINED TO PLAY IN THE COMING SESSION OF PARLIAMENT. NOT ONLY IS THE PARLIAMENT SO FINELY-BALANCED THAT THEIR VOTES MAY WELL OFTEN BE DECISIVE, BUT THE DELICATE ISSUE OF THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN DENMARK AND ITS DEPENDENCIES WILL AGAIN BE UP FOR RENEWED CONSIDERATION. THE COMMISSION OF SELF-GOVERNMENT FOR GREENLAND HAS COMPLETED ITS REPORT (REF B) AND ITS RECOMMENDATIONS -- IN FAVOR OF A SELF-GOVERNING STATUS SIMILAR TO THE OF THE FAEROES--WILL BE PRESENTED AS SOON AS THE NEW GOVERNMENT IS FORMED. A NEW GOVERNMENT IN THE FAEROES (SEPTTEL FOLLOWS) HAS ALSO AGREED UPON A PROGRAM CALLING FOR ASSUMPTION BY THE FAEROESE OF CERTAIN PREROGATIVES PRESENTLY EXERCISED BY THE DANISH GOVERNMENT.
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